

REMARKS

Applicants' attorney wishes to thank Examiner Rost and Supervisory Examiner Keasel for the courteous and helpful interview of today, where the present amendment and prior art were discussed.

Applicants have amended the claims in order to clarify the present invention.

As now amended, Claim 1 has the components of normally open or normally closed fluid control devices where the devices embody the use of an identical valve case, valve element, valve element holder, lower casing and upper casing, respectively, while using a different valve stem, different piston and different compression coil spring dependent on the normally open or normally closed feature of the fluid control device.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sugano et al. (JP - 8-075017); Claim 3 was rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of a combination of Sugano et al. and Wells et al. (U.S. 3,958,592); and Claims 4 - 6 were rejected as obvious in view of a combination of Sugano et al., Wells et al. and Ohmi et al. (U.S. 4,828,219). Reconsideration and renewal of these rejections are respectfully requested in view of the present amendment to Claim 1 and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, it is stated that Sugano et al. shows (Fig. 1) the use of a common valve case, valve element, valve element holder, lower casing, upper casing, valve stem and piston for a valve that can be a normally open position or normally closed position. In the present claimed fluid control device, while common components are used in a normally open device and a normally closed

device, only certain components, the valve case, valve element, valve element holder, lower casing and upper casing are the same configuration in both a normally open and normally closed valve, while a different valve stem, different piston and different compression coil spring are used dependent upon the desired normally open or normally closed configuration.

There is no description in Sugano that some components of the normally closed type have the same configurations as those of the normally open type, respectively.

More specifically stated, in the present claimed fluid control device, the control device of the normally closed type and that of the normally open type can be obtained wherein the valve case 2, valve element 4, valve element holder 5, lower casing 7 and upper casing 8 for the normally closed type are the same as those for the normally open type in configuration, respectively, and the valve stem 9, 29, piston 10, 30 and compression coil spring 11, 31 for the normally closed type are different from those for the normally open type in configuration, respectively. In Sugano, the device of the normally closed type is different from that of the normally open type in configuration of the upper casing, as shown in the attached "Drawing 1."

The Wells et al. and Ohmi references also do not teach or suggest such a configuration.

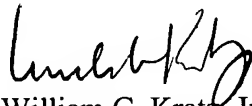
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/526,156**
Reply to OA dated October 3, 2006

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

ENCLOSURE: PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

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